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Illinois

Blagojevich, Governor

Illinois Department on Aging
Charles D. Johnson, Director



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Illinois

Help is available
for grandparents and
other relatives who are
caring for children.



Illinois Department
on **Aging**



Who is giving care?

- ✓ In Illinois, over 200,000 children are being raised in grandparent-headed homes.
- ✓ They are from all walks of life and all cultural and economic groups.
- ✓ Grandparent caregivers range in age from 30 to 90.
- ✓ Most have cared for the children 5 years or longer and are raising 1-2 children.
- ✓ The grandparents' average income is between \$15,000 and \$25,000.
- ✓ The majority of grandparents are single women.



You are **not** alone...

Many grandparents are overwhelmed with the situations they face.



Grace's dreams of retirement were shattered when she took her three young grandchildren into her home. Now, at age 60, she is raising a second family – with the limited financial resources of a retired person.

Dorothy and Jim are faced with raising an active five-year-old. Dorothy is worried because her grandson is showing signs of having problems in school, and she and Jim are experiencing health problems.

It's important to

Why is it happening?

Reasons children come to live with relatives are often heartbreaking and tragic. They include:

- ✓ Drug or alcohol abuse by the parent(s)
- ✓ Neglect, abuse or abandonment
- ✓ Death of a parent
- ✓ HIV / AIDS
- ✓ Divorce
- ✓ Unemployment / poverty
- ✓ Parental incarceration
- ✓ Teen pregnancy
- ✓ Welfare reform

Ask for help

Help is available!

The Illinois Department on Aging, in partnership with 13 Area Agencies on Aging, can provide information and assistance to help you locate these and other services:

- ♥ Caregiver Resource Centers
- ♥ Support groups
- ♥ Financial assistance
- ♥ Medical coverage for grandchildren
- ♥ Child care (under certain circumstances)
- ♥ Guardianship
- ♥ Legal services
- ♥ Information and assistance
- ♥ Advocacy with school enrollment and other areas

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Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Illinois

...helping grandparents and
other relatives care for children

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Illinois Department on Aging

421 E. Capitol Ave., #100
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1789

Senior HelpLine:

1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)

Download this brochure at **www.state.il.us/aging**
in the "News and Publications" section.

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).